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Amendments to the claims:

1-33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended): A method for extracting a watermark from data containing a watermark comprising:

receiving data containing a watermark including a plural-bit message and at least one steganographic component; ~~which data has been subjected to distortion;~~

with reference to the ~~[[a]]~~ steganographically hidden component, determining a registration associated with the data or component; and characteristics of the distortion;

~~adjusting the data to compensate for the distortion; and~~

extracting the plural-bit message of the watermark from compensated and accumulated blocks of data with at least consideration of the registration.

35. (currently amended): A method for extracting a watermark from data containing a watermark as set forth in claim 34, further comprising ~~where said~~ adjusting the data with at least ~~comprises~~ a geometric transform.

36. (currently amended): A method for extracting a watermark from data containing a watermark as set forth in claim 34, wherein the watermark is extracted from data blocks each comprising an ~~comprises and n by n block blocks~~ where the value of n is 8.

37-38. (canceled).

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39. (currently amended): A method of extracting a watermark from compressed data containing a watermark comprising:

receiving compressed data containing a watermark in the form of n by n blocks, which data has been subjected to ~~affine geometric~~ distortion;

transforming the data;

~~adjusting the~~ determining a calibration of the transformed data ~~to compensate for the~~
~~affine geometric distortion~~ based on characteristics of a steganographic calibration ~~an orientation~~
component associated with the watermark; and

extracting the watermark from the transformed adjusted data based at least in part on the
calibration.

40-47. (canceled).

48. (new): The method of claim 34 wherein the registration pertains to at least one of scale, rotation and orientation.

49. (new): The method of claim 34 wherein the steganographic component comprises at least a predetermined pattern.

50. (new): The method of claim 34 wherein the steganographic component comprises at least a message carrier.

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51. (new): The method of claim 39 wherein the characteristics of the steganographic orientation component evidences at least one of scale, rotation and registration.

52. (new): The method of claim 39 wherein the steganographic calibration component comprises at least a pattern.

53. (new): The method of claim 39 wherein the steganographic calibration component comprises at least a message carrier.